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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The revised estimate for this scheme in May 1944 was Rs. 65 lakhs. The actual total expenditure up to the end of March 1953 is Rs. 65,41,731. The final completion report is awaited by the Corporation."

SRI C. RAJAM RAMASAMI :—" May I know whether any application for loan was made for the purchase of mechanical filters? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member may give notice of a separate question."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know whether the supply of water from this reservoir would be sufficient to meet the growing demands of the City of Madras and if not, whether the Government have any other alternative scheme? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Even this supply may run short in seasons of scarcity and drought. Government have had under consideration further measures to add to the quantity of water supplied in Madras City."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Is it a fact that the cost of supervision of this reservoir by the P.W.D. is borne by this Government? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" A separate question may be given notice of."

Construction of a dam at Padne in Kasargod taluk.

* 728 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP (on behalf of Sri M. Narayanan Nambiar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the proposal to construct a dam at Padne in Kasargod taluk, South Kanara district, to obstruct salt water has been abandoned; and

(*b*) if so, why?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) It is under examination.

" (*b*) Does not arise."

Delay in the payment of travelling allowance to certain teachers in Malabar.

* 729 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that 6 teachers of Devisahayam Aided Elementary School, Koram Payyanur, North Malabar, have not yet been paid their subsistence allowances for attending four election classes in 1951 even though they presented their bills with the necessary certificates; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor?

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" *(a)* & *(b)* The travelling allowance claims of the six teachers in question for having attended the election instruction classes, said to have been preferred to the District Educational Officer, Tellicherry, were not received either by him or by the Tahsildar, Chirakkal. The Tahsildar, Chirakkal has, therefore, now obtained fresh claims from these teachers and settled them."

Harijan representation in the Madras Electricity System.

* 730 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the percentage of Harijan workers both skilled and unskilled in the Madras Electricity System, in the Power Works, Basin Bridge and in the office at Mount Road?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Thirty per cent in the Generation Branch and nine per cent in the Distribution Branch of the Madras Electricity System."

Fall in the collection of sales tax in the City of Madras.

* 731 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether there is any fall in the collection of sale tax in the City of Madras in the year 1953 and if so, to what extent?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Yes. The amount of sales tax collected in the City of Madras in the financial year 1953–54 up to the end of February 1954 is Rs. 266·34 lakhs. The amount collected in the corresponding period of 1952–53 was 291·58 lakhs."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" இந்த பிரஸ்தாப 1953-ம் ஆண்டில் விற்பனை வரி மிக மிகக் குறைவாக வசூலாகியிருப்பதிலிருந்தே வியாபாரிகள் அதிகமாக பாதிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்கள் என்பது தெரிகிறது. ஆகவே பல பல நாட்களாக விற்பனை வரி விஷயமாக வியாபாரிகளால் வற்புறுத்தப்பட்டு வரும் கோரிக்கைகளையும், வேண்டுகோள்களையும் இந்த அரசாங்கம் இப்பொழுதாவது கவனிக்குமா என்று அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I do not exactly understand the question of the hon. Member. This is due to the state of trade."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" May I know the reasons for the decline in the sales tax collected in the year 1953? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Various factors like depression in trade and lack of purchasing capacity of the people have contributed to the decline in sales tax collection."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" மக்களது வாங்கும் சக்தி மிகவும் குறைந்திருப்பதால் விற்பனை வரி வசூலும் மிகக் குறைந்திருக்கிறதென்று கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் சொன்னார்கள். அதை உத்தேசித்தாவது விற்பனை வரியை ஒரு முனை வரியாக செய்ய சர்க்கார் உத்தேசிக்குமா ? "